

Message Text

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13

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 VO-03 SCA-01 SY-10 A-01 RSC-01 /029 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:JHHOLMES/BK

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R 282145Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL KARACHI

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PK (KOTHAWALA, ASHRAF EBRAHIM)

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION OF VISA EXTORTION/BRIBERY ATTEMPT

1. RAFIQ EBRAHIM, PAK STUDENT AT GROSSMONT COLLEGE, SAN DIEGO TELEPHONED PAB AUGUST 28 AND ALLEGED THAT HIS BROTHER, ASHRAF EBRAHIM KOTHAWALA, KARACHI STUDENT VISA APPLICANT, WAS VICTIM OF EXTORTION DEMAND MADE BY QUOTE CLERKS IN KARACHI VISA OFFICE UNQUOTE. ACCORDING TO RAFIQ, BRIBERY SCHEME WELL KNOWN IN KARACHI STUDENT CIRCLES. USUAL DEMAND ALLEGEDLY IN RANGE OF TWO-THREE THOUSAND RUPEES IN RETURN FOR WHICH CLERKS ASSURE STUDENT APPLICANTS WILL PASS ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAM. RAFIQ UNABLE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION BUT STATED HIS BROTHER ASHRAF WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH CONSULAR OFFICER THIS MATTER, IF YOU DESIRE.

2. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES RAFIQ AND ASHRAF MAY HAVE OWN AX TO GRIND SINCE ASHRAF HAS APPARENTLY HAD SOME DIFFICULTY ESTABLISHING HIS ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND REGISTRATION DATE AT U.S. SCHOOL RAPIDLY APPROACHING. WE HAVE ADVISED RAFIQ WE WILL IN NO WAY INTERVENE IN BROTHER'S VISA CASE, BUT WILL ENDEAVOR TO CHECK OUT
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EXTORTION CHARGES. WHILE WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ALLEGATION

AND HAVE EXPRESSED THEM TO RAFIQ, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO
HAVE YOUR ASSESSMENT BEFORE WE REPLY IN DETAIL.
RUSH

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NNN

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